

## Planning and Infrastructure Policy and Advisory Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022

### Urgent Update

#### Agenda Item 13

##### Statements of Common Ground for Local Plan Review

This urgent update relates to the draft Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) referred in the covering report (Exempt Appendices 1-9). It comprises two final draft SoCG and seven working draft SoCG. Exempt Appendix 2: Draft Statement of Common Ground between Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council (regarding minerals) and Exempt Appendix 6: Draft Statement of Common Ground between Maidstone Borough Council and Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit have been finalised and are therefore ready for a decision by the Lead Member on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Exempt Appendices 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 have not been finalised.

As set out in paragraph 2.14 of the associated cover report, due to the ongoing nature of negotiations around some issues contained within these documents, there may be circumstances which prevent the full complement of the Statements of Common Ground being finalised by planning officers in time for the meeting.

Given the above, either of the below scenarios will be applicable at tomorrow's meeting of the Committee:

##### Scenario A

Two SoCG have been finalised (Exempt Appendix 2 and Exempt Appendix 6 to the report). The Committee is requested to recommend their approval to the Lead Member for Planning and Infrastructure and note the remaining seven SoCG contained within Exempt Appendices 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 of the report. The remaining SoCG would be approved by the Lead Member for Planning and Infrastructure at an additional Lead Member Meeting (to be arranged) subject to urgency procedures as applicable.

##### Scenario B

Two SoCG have been finalised (Exempt Appendix 2 and Exempt Appendix 6 to the report), with the possibility that additional SoCG are finalised before tomorrow's meeting of the Committee. In this situation, the Committee would be asked to recommend the approval of all of the finalised SoCG to the Lead Member for Planning and Infrastructure and note the remaining SoCG contained within the Exempt Appendices to the report.

The remaining SoCG would be approved by the Lead Member for Planning and Infrastructure at an additional Lead Member Meeting (to be arranged) subject to urgency procedures as applicable.

**For information**, the Committee will be informed of any additional updates to the SoCG prior to its meeting on the 3 November 2022.